(b) if not, what is the assessment of the success; and

(c) what further steps are proposed to be taken in pursuance of the mediatory role?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c) India has offered its good offices to facilitate a negotiated political solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. While the search for a political solution continues some progress has been made in narrowing the gap between the positions of the Sri Lanka Government and Tamil groups on many issues. The escalation of the military operations and the imposition of an economic and communications blockade on Jaffna since January 1987 led to India suspending its good offices.

Government are in touch with the two sides to see if conditions can be created to resume negotiations towards a political settlement.

Merger of provinces in Sri Lanka

429. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Sri Lanka have agreed to merge Eastern Province of Sri Lanka with Northern Province: and

(b) if so, what action Government of India have taken for the implementation of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Purchase of Supercomputer

430. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement with any foreign country for the purchase of supercomputer has since been signed;

(b) if so, the name of the country with whom such an agreement has been signed and what are the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) what will be the financial implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Inflammatory Speeches made at the Babri Mosque Rally

431. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that highly provocative and inflamble speeches were made by certain persons at the Babri Mosque rally in the Capital on the 30th March, 1987, to arise communal feelings of the Muslim community;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government under the law of the land against such persons; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any action to defuse the situation due to the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Mosque dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Administration is seized of the matter.

(c) The Government believes that the matter should be resolved in consultation with the people of the locality.

Death of a Zebra in Delhi Zoo

432. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Zebra in Delhi Zoo died recently because of sheer negligence on the part of some visitors;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of the animals who died/suffered injuries in the Zoos in the country because of visitors negligence during the last one year;

(d) whether Government have reviewed the existing arrangements in the Zoos to prevent cruelty to animals; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to strengthen the preventive measures to protect the animals in the Zoos?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) A zebra died on 24th March, 1987 in the Delhi Zoo due to intestinal blockage caused by plastic bags, which it had swallowed.

(c) This information is not maintained by Government.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It is proposed to make vandalism in zoos legally punishable.

Provident Fund Outstanding Against M/s. Amrita Bazar Patrika Limited and M/s. Jugantar Limited

433. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2210 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of employees' provident fund contribution for the year 1986-87 has not been deposited by the management of M/s. Amrita Bazar Patrika Limited and M/s. Jugantar Limited; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) what action is being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The required information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons in West Bengal

434. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the package of assistance given to West Bengal as announced by the Prime Minister in September 1986 last, includes Rs. 93 crores for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps so far taken to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After scrutiny of colonywise information furnished by Govt. of West Bengal an expenditure of Rs. 84.36 crores has been approved for acquisition of land for 607 squatters' colonies set up between 1.1.51 and 25.3.71. The programme is to be completed by the Govt. of West Bengal in 5-years time which includes distribution of title deeds to displaced persons.

Laboratory Facility in ITDC Hotels for checking the quality of food

435. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC hotels are equipped with laboratory facility and proper staff to check the quality of raw materials being used for the preparation of food articles especially when instances of food adulteration are quite common;